

# DUXBURY REPORTER



STAFF PHOTO/ANDRIA FARRELL

Dick Solber (middle) and the Sun Mountain Band turned the heat up during the second annual Duxbury Oyster Festival.

## Shell shucked!

### Second annual Duxbury Oyster Festival a slurping success

By Andria Farrell  
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There may have been a chill in air on Sunday, but that didn't stop hundreds of people from coming out to the Winsor house for the second annual Duxbury Oyster Festival sponsored by the Winsor house and Island Creek Oysters.

Whether you like your oysters cooked or raw, there were plenty of options and plenty of oysters. Three boats were lined up filled with crushed ice and topped with oysters on the half

**Check out the video from the second annual Duxbury Oyster Festival online at [Duxbury.wickedlocal.com](http://Duxbury.wickedlocal.com)**

shell. Condiments of all flavors were provided to tickle the taste buds of all their lovers, from ketchup, Tabasco sauce, both red and green, lemons, cocktail sauce, or just plain naked. For the

adventurous lovers they even had a giant ice luge where the 21 plus crowd could slip the oysters down with a bit of 80-proof vodka.

If raw was not to the liking, the festival also had oyster po-boys, buffalo oysters, and oyster stew. And for those who didn't care for the creatures from the sea they could enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs and sausages.

Although the event was all fun games, and slurping oysters, it was done for a good cause. This year's

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# Shell shucked!

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Oyster Festival raised money for Crossroads for Kids, and a scholarship for a Duxbury High School senior going to school for aquaculture or marine science. More than 6,000 shucked oysters, and generous contributions from all attendees, helped raise \$3,000 to donate to Crossroads for Kids to bring inner city kids to Camp Wing in Duxbury over the summer, and a \$1,000 scholarship given to Ian Babson for his continued study in aquaculture.

Don Merry from Island Creek Oysters, and David O'Connell of the Winsor House Inn, organized the charity donation to Crossroads for kids.

"There is a group of us all that grew up here, some of the friends' wives are involved with Crossroads for Kids, one Thursday night we spent the whole night cleaning up and building shelves at Camp Wing

**"Who knew slurping oyster could bring campers to Crossroads for Kids. It is so wonderful to be able to share such a beautiful resource for thousands of children that come from communities that don't have access to the bay."**

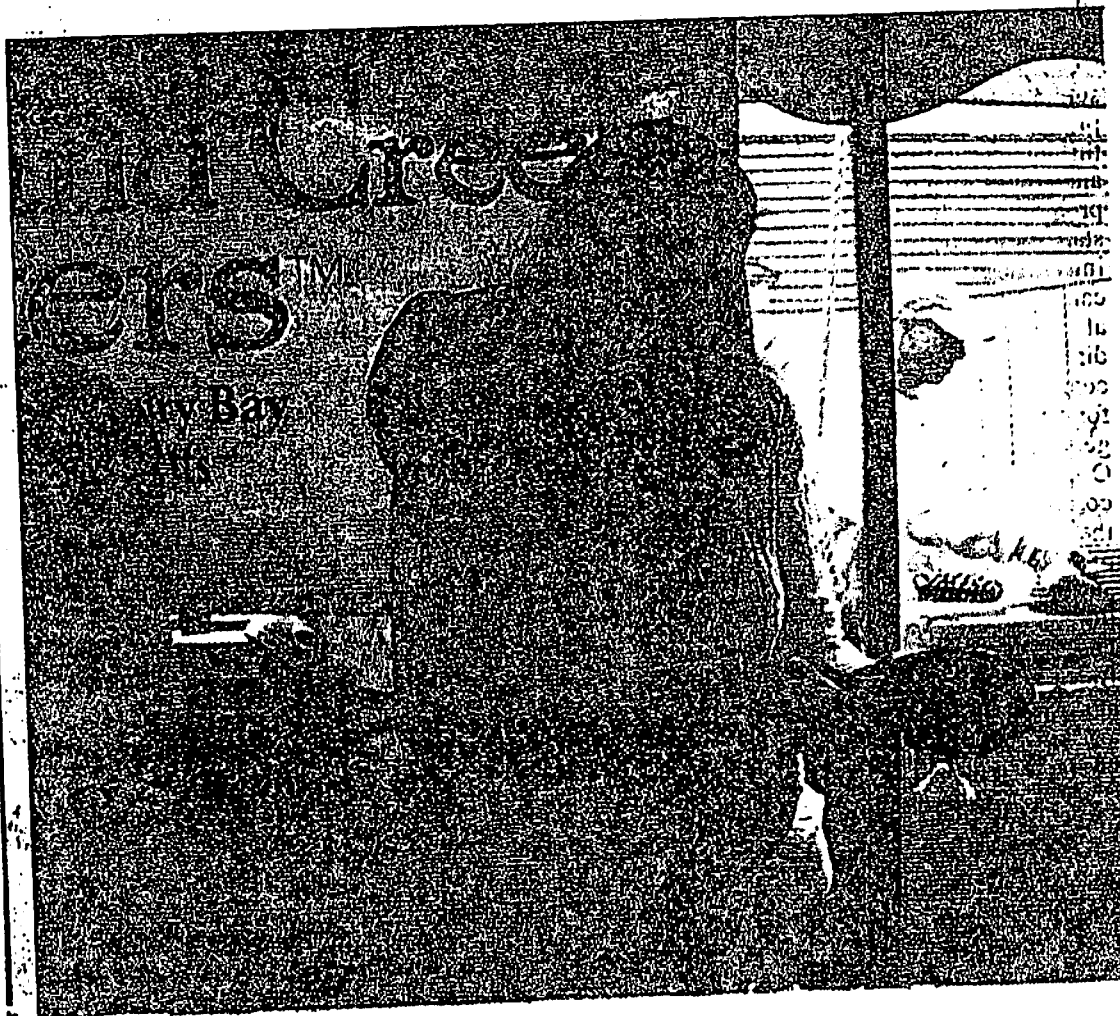
— Sue Bradford, the director of development and communications at Crossroads for Kids

and I thought this might be a good thing to give the money too," Merry said. "(Island Creek Oysters) has done some stuff with the kids at Crossroads for Kids, we gave tours of oyster beds and show them how to grow them from start to finish. I knew about the camp and what a great organization it truly is. To take inner city kids that may be going down the wrong direction and take them out of place and put

them in a great place, it could really change people lives, it's great a cause."

Merry, who was instrumental in getting the Oyster Festival started in Duxbury, has traveled all over the world to different oyster festivals getting ideas and honing his own unique ideas as well. He said he knew after the success of the first festival that they would be able to do so much more with the

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money they raised, and with such strong support from the community for the Crossroads for Kids program already, he knew it would be an easy sell and a great charity to work with.

Deb Donahue, the executive director of Crossroads for Kids, happily attended the event on their behalf and accepted the generous \$3,000 donated from the oyster festival for Crossroads for Kids. She said that because of the generosity of events, like the oyster festival, and all the participants they are able to offer great camps to so many kids that normally would never have the opportunity to learn about aquaculture and the beach.

"This is an incredible event, so many residents came out to have fun and support local causes, we were thrilled to be the charity of choice." Donahue said "Without the help and support of generous incredible donors and events like this we wouldn't be able to do what we do."

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Deb Donahue, the executive director of Crossroads for Kids

Crossroads for Kids provides summer camps and year-round programs to at risk youths through social, recreational, and educational programs. The programs provide emotional, stable and positive empowering experiences for the campers in a diverse and natural setting. Sue Bradford, the director of development and communications at Crossroads for Kids, said that through the generosity of people like O'Connell and Merry and communities like Duxbury, they can continue their mission of providing fun, educational, and positive camps at there three locations, Camp Wing in Duxbury, Camp Milton in Brewster and Camp Coca-Cola at Camp Lapham in Ashby. Merry contacted Bradford last fall with an interest in sharing the world of aquaculture with the campers, and giving back to a local organization. She said because so many of the campers come from eastern Massachusetts, many have never had the opportunity to go claiming or learn about the sea.

"We initially spoke with him last fall and he was very interested to share the world of aquaculture with our campers, because so many of our campers come from towns all over eastern Massachusetts,

from Lowell and Lawrence, to Boston communities, New Bedford and the Cape, and many of our campers have never been clamming, or perhaps understand the beauty of Duxbury Bay. It was with his interest to volunteer in this capacity that he offered the Duxbury Oyster fest, and Crossroads for Kids for one of the beneficiary of the festival." Bradford said. "Who knew slurping oyster could bring campers to Crossroads for

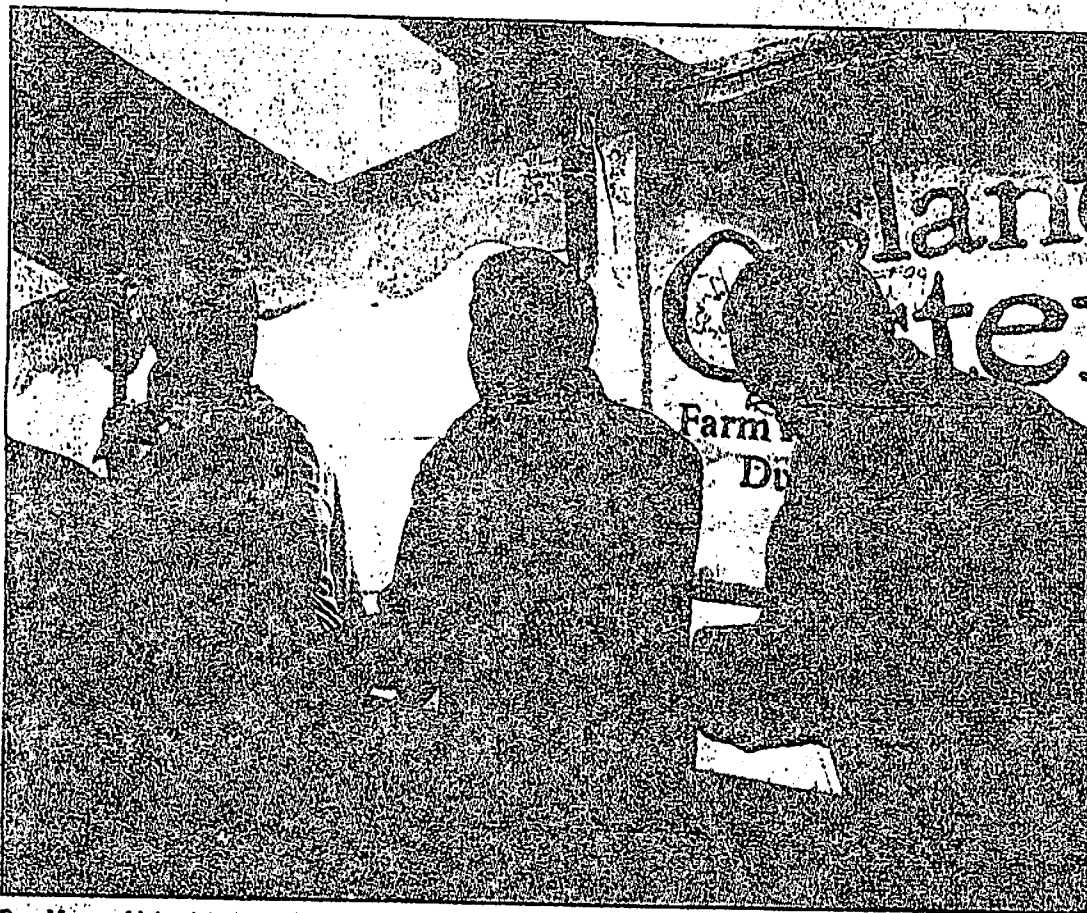
Kids. It is so wonderful to be able to share such a beautiful resource for thousands of children that come from communities that don't have access to the bay."

Merry also mentioned that an anonymous donor is going to match the \$3,000 the oyster festival donated to Crossroads for Kids this year, as well as match what is donated next year.

From the generosity of the festival coordinators donating

to Crossroads for Kids and Duxbury senior, to the thousands of oysters donated by local farmers, the many volunteers donating their time, and even the donation of beer, the oyster festival was a hit that has etched out a place in Duxbury for years to come. And if that were not enough, people are already excited to see if Judy Hamilton, this year's oyster slurping champion, will be able to hold on to her title next year. The only way to find out is to clear the calendar, and buy a ticket next year - after all it is all for charity.

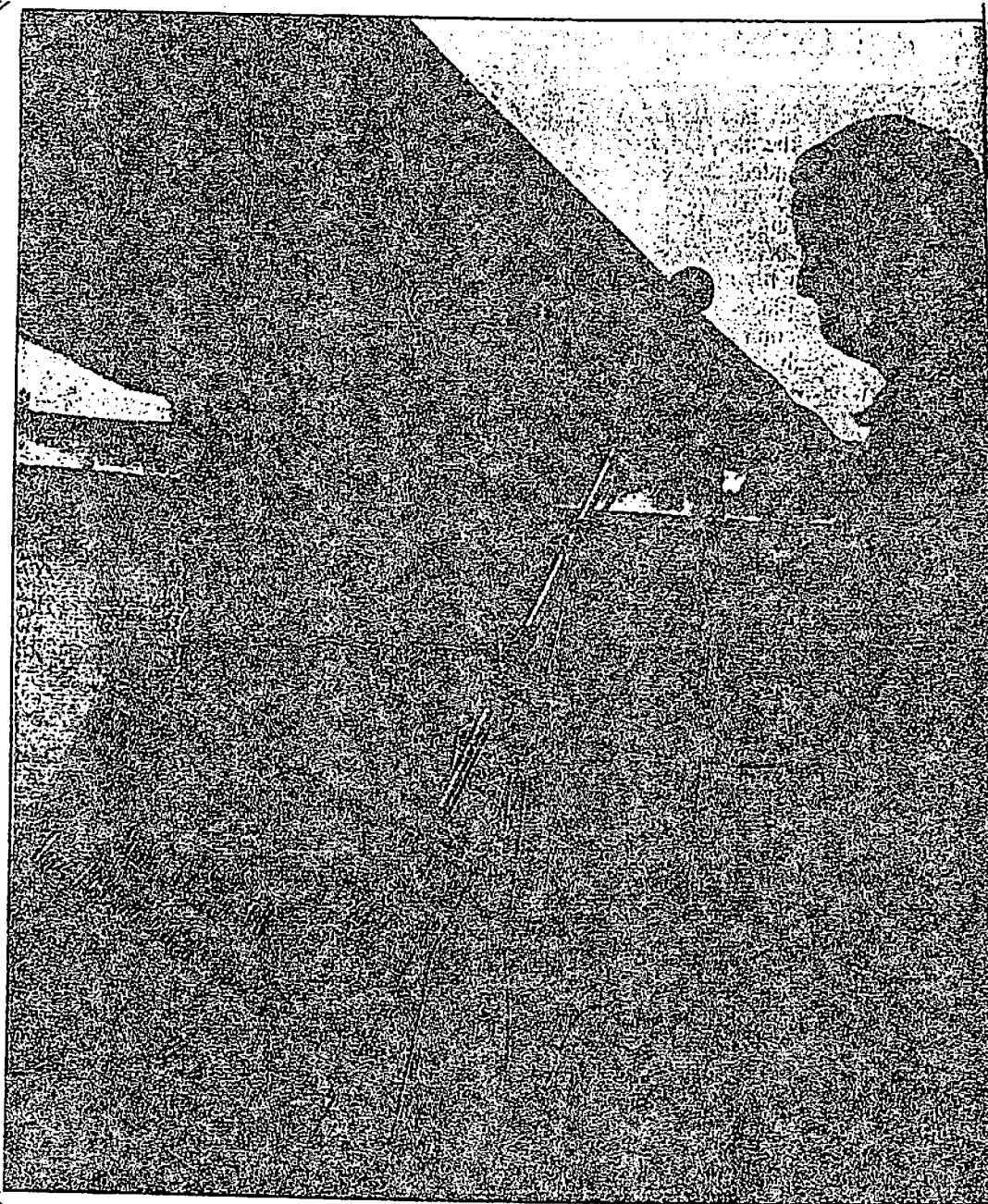
Checkout the video from the second annual Duxbury Oyster Festival on-line at [Duxbury.wickedlocal.com](http://Duxbury.wickedlocal.com) and learn how the Duxbury Pearl likes to eat her oysters how the luge is done, how to successfully slurp an oyster and watch commentary from Michael O'Connell of the Winsor House Inn, on how and why the Duxbury Oyster festival came about.



Don Merry of Island Crook Oysters shakes hands with Michael O'Connell of the Winsor House Inn on their collaborated efforts in charity as David O'Connell of the Winsor House Inn speaks about the charities.

### Your ticket's worth

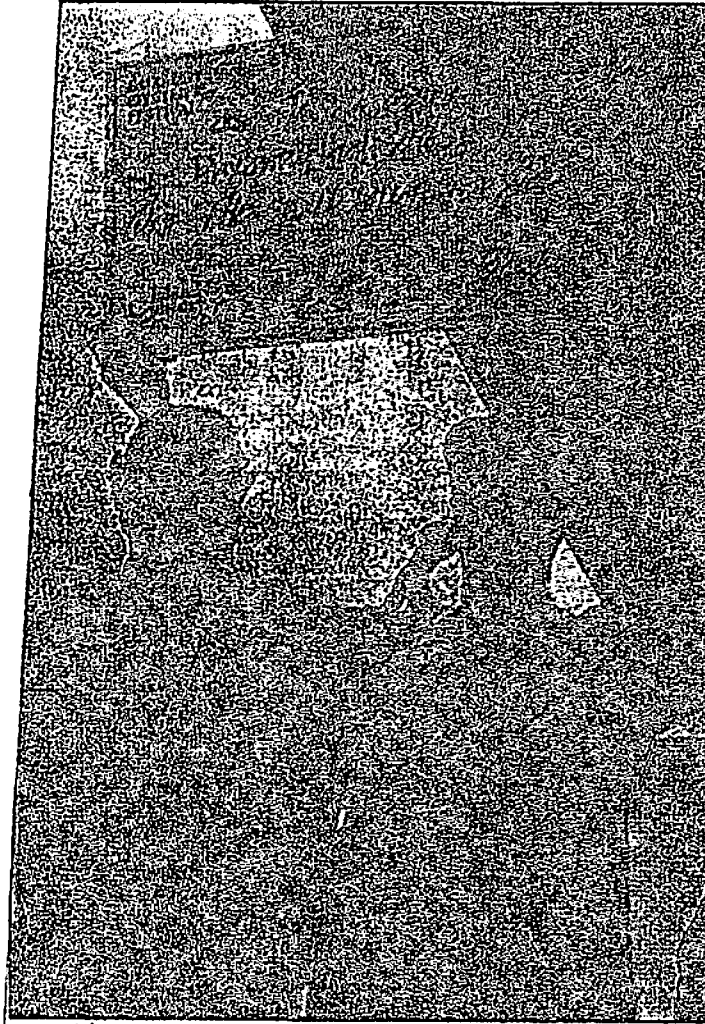
This year the shuckers shucked a little over 6,000 oysters at the event, sold 10 gallons of oyster stew and 16 gallons of shucked oysters all together. They went through 16 kegs of beer, 250 pounds of hamburger, 150 sausages and over 100 hotdogs. They sold 350 tickets to the event and received numerous private donations.



STAFF PHOTOS/ANDRIA FARI

Deb Donahue, executive director of Crossroads for Kids, shakes Don Merry's hands and accepts the \$3,000 check donated to Crossroads for Kids from the festival.





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Ian Babson proudly displays his \$1,000 scholarship check donated by the Duxbury Oyster Festival for his continued education in aquaculture.